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Arms Czar 'Has No Ties With CIA'

The munitions czar of Pacific Heights has no connection with the Central Intelligence Agency or any other security organization and is not an agent of a foreign power, the United States Attorney's office said here today.

And William Thoresen III himself denied that he has anything to do with any right-wing group such as the Minutemen.

"We have checked this out and I can say flatly there is no connection between Mr. Thoresen and the CIA or any other security organization," Assistant U.S. Attorney Jarrold Ladar said yesterday.

"There is no evidence that he is an agent of a foreign power."

Thoresen was released on $25,000 bail after surrendering Wednesday on charges of illegally possessing automatic weapons and purchasing a machine gun. Raids have produced 70 tons of weapons shipped to Thoresen and stored in four places, including a Pacific Heights mansion.

Thoresen was sneaked into the Hall of Justice yesterday [illegible] of his attorney, Edward [illegible] have his picture made and fingerprints taken for the intelligence unit of the San Francisco Police Department. His attractive wife and 5-year-old son waited outside in the car.

Thoresen was asked by a reporter if he was in any way connected with the Minutemen or any other right-wing group. Thoresen flatly denied that he was.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Ladar, meanwhile, just as flatly contradicted an earlier statement of both Thoresen and his other attorney J. W. Ehrlich both had said the collection of armaments was harmless and was intended for sale as "lawn ornaments."

Ladar said that most of the guns and ammunition seized so far is "modern, usable and dangerous." He said two more raids on new caches uncovered would take place today in Oakland and San Francisco, but expected the tonnage involved to be "relatively small" compared with previous raids.

Ladar said the ammunition taken from the last raids of storage plants in Oakland and Berkeley was so potentially explosive that the California Highway Patrol barred trucks from hauling it across the Bay bridge to San Francisco.

The Army trucks had to take the long way around through San Jose over roads bordering the bay shore. The trucks carried signs warning "explosives" and "Danger."

Authorities are still trying to clear up the purpose of the more than 70-ton collection of cannons, machine guns, mortars, grenades, rifles and ammunition.

As the Federal, State and local law enforcement officials were busy trying to figure out how to inventory all of the armaments within the ten-day deadline required by law, Federal Judge Oliver J. Carter was busy deciding on a psychiatrist who would examine the 30-year-old son of a Chicago steel magnate.

Judge Carter decided on Dr. Edward Dean of San Francisco. The examination will be made a week from today, May 5.

The report will be completely secret. It will be up to the judge to release any or all of it at his discretion. Apparently, from the report, Judge Carter is to determine whether the young scion is legally mentally capable.